As per extant guidelines of RBI, the money lying in dead saving accounts is paid to legal heir, if claimea.

Loan support package for Karnataka

1959. SHRI KB. KRISHNAMURTHY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether NABARD is acting as co-ordinating agency in the effort of doubling up agricultural loans is Karnataka during the year 2004-05;

(b) if so, the amount of loan support package proposed to be sanctioned by Government during the year 2004-05 to Karnataka;

(c) what are the steps taken to ensure that all categories of banks will participate in doubling up agricultural loans in the Karnataka; and

(d) the number of farmers proposed to be benefited from agricultural loans during the year 2004-05 in Karnataka?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) and (b) National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) is the monitoring and data collecting agency in the efforts for doubling credit disbursement to agriculture in the next three years. The agriculture lending target of Karnataka state for the year 2004-05 is Rs. 6371.19 crores. The target for Commercial Banks, Co-operative Banks and Regional Rural Banks (RRBs) are Rs. 3547.59 crores, Rs. 1716.00 crores and Rs. 1107.59 crores respectively.

(c) In order to achieve the lending target, a special State Level Bankers' Committee (SLBC) meeting was convened on July 16,2004 in Karnataka. The overall target has been disaggregated and operational targets have been allotted to various agencies. For periodical review off Ground Level Credit flow to the farm sector a sub-committee under the chairmanship of Principal Secretary (Agriculture) to the Government of Karnataka has been constituted. District Level Technical Committee meetings and State Level Unit Cost Committee meetings have been conducted to revise the scale of finance and unit cost for investment activities.

(d) There is no specific target as to the number of farmers to be financed during the current year. However, all rural and semi urban branches of Banks are advised to finance 100 new additional farmers and as such

during the year, 3,19,100 new farmers will be brought under institutional credit in Karnataka.

Artisan credit card scheme in Karnataka

1960. SHRI K.B. KRISHNAMURTHY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether NABARD had set a target of enrolling 50,000 artisans under the Artisan credit Scheme last year in Karnataka;

(b) if so, how many artisans in Karnataka were benefited during the last year;

(c) the steps proposed to be taken to enroll more artisans under the above scheme in Karnataka; and

(d) what is the target fixed under the above scheme for Karnataka during the year 2004-05?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Review of customs and excise duty structure

1961. SHRIMATI VANGAGEETHA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have reviewed the existing customs and excise duty structure of crude and petro products;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) its impact on consumers oil companies and Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) After the presentation of the budget on 8.7.2004, certain changes have been made in duty rates on 18.8.2004 and 30.9.2004. There has been no change in the rate of basic customs duty on crude petroleum.

(b) The requisite details are given in the enclosed Statement. (See below).